

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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4 ARRESTED BY ABC INVESTIGATORS DURING DECOY OPERATION

Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), arrested 4 people in an undercover operation targeting sales of alcoholic beverages to minors. The operation was conducted March 19, 2005 in the general vicinity of Santa Clarita.

ABC Investigators used several resources for the operation, one being the Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation that targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults comply, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

ABC Investigators visited five separate premises during the operation.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show they generally have a higher rate of drunken driving crashes than adults. Studies also show the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

The ABC is a department of Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Mcpeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.

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